

# Holiday Safety Tips

The Holidays are among us which means crimes will be on the rise... *PROTECT YOURSELF*

- ❖ Have packages/presents delivered to a location where they can be received in person, such as a neighbor's or relative's house so they are unable to be stolen off of your front porch when no one is home
- ❖ To help reduce the risk of theft from your vehicle, always lock your doors, even if you are quickly running in somewhere
- ❖ Keep high dollar items hidden in your vehicle. i.e. packages in the trunk of your vehicle or glove compartment instead of in plain view
- ❖ Never post on social media that you will be out of town—this can increase your risk to become victim to a burglary
- ❖ When shopping online, ALWAYS make sure you are on a secure website. You can check this by looking at the web URL. If the web address begins with https (as opposed to http), the "s" indicates that you are on a secure website
- ❖ Fake charities
  - Holiday season is a time when charitable organizations often collect donations from consumers looking to spread some holiday cheer but beware of phony charities that may call or send letters in hopes of cashing in on your holiday spirit.
  - Research the charity before donating (try [charitynavigator.com](http://charitynavigator.com) or the Better Business Bureau).
- ❖ Think twice before clicking links in shipping notification emails and always verify the shipping company before giving out your personal information
- ❖ Beware of deals that are too good to be true as they could steal your personal information and ruin holiday cheer

